

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Knox County EMA
301 Park St. Rockland, ME 04841
Web Site: www.knoxcountymaine.gov/ema

January 4, 2022 LEPC Meeting

held via Zoom

Committee Members Present:

Ray Sisk	Knox County EMA Director	Robert Coombs	KRCC Director
Candice Richards	LEPC Secretary	Eric Greiner	Dragon Products
Peter Beckett	Appleton Select Board	Jerry Squires	Fisher Engineering
Drexell White	ME CDC		

Committee members not present: Mike Ames, Maine Water; Matt Allen, IFF/DuPont Nutrition; Tom Nelson, PBMC; Tim Polky, St. George EMA; Matt Coleman, Lonza; Chris Whytock, Rockland Fire/EMS; Andrew Hart, Knox County Administration; Nina Caputo, DEP; Lorain Francis, Penquis; and Katie Tarbox, MCH/MOW.

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by LEPC Treasurer Ray Sisk.

Approval of Minutes: 10/5/21, 11/2/21

- Drexell White made a motion to approve the minutes. Jerry Squires seconded the motion. A vote was taken with all in favor.

Secretary's Report:

1. 2021 Tier 2 Reports:

Links to the 2021 software and workshop schedule were forwarded out via email. Candice Richards asked if anyone had received the submission packet from the state because the County had not. The SERC has traditionally sent out a hard copy packet as well as an email with the electronic versions of the documents. Candice said that she had to go looking for the packet documents on the SERC website in their library. She offered to email it out to everyone after the meeting since no one had received anything from the state. The 2021 software is pretty much the same as last year. Contact Candice if you have any issues using it.

- Eric Greiner motioned to approve the Secretary's Report. Drexell White seconded the motion. A vote was taken with all in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

Beginning Balance	Personnel Services Expenses	Gen Operating Expenses	Expense	Revenue	Interest	Ending Balance November 30
(\$72.03)	\$513.63	\$61.33		\$0.00		(\$646.99)

Impact of Unreimbursed Expenses

Knox County has been dealing with the problem of the state not reimbursing us for grant expenditures for most of 2021. As of the end of November, the Knox County LEPC was in the hole \$646.99, plus whatever expenses were in December. This is due to the state not paying reimbursements. We have not been reimbursed for any LEPC expenses since the end of March 2021. Ray said he had informed the SERC yesterday that this puts Knox County in the situation of having to suspend LEPC ops and furlough personnel until the state pays the county back. This holds the SERC responsible for their inaction. The state says they're working on the reimbursements but they've been saying that for a while. It's not just the LEPC not being repaid – the counties in general are not being reimbursed large sums of money. Knox County alone is around \$107,000 in the hole for all of the grants the state hasn't reimbursed the County for.

- Peter Beckett made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Eric Greiner seconded the motion. A vote was taken with all in favor.

Training updates: *Knox County LEPC has a \$7,235.61 funding commitment for responder/facility HAZMAT/Chemical Safety related training for July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022.*

Recent Past Training

Dates:	Title:	Location:
November 3, 2021 6 p.m.	2021 NWS Gray Winter Spotter Training	Virtual
November 16, 2021 6 p.m.	2021 NWS Gray Winter Spotter Training	Virtual

Future Training

Dates:	Title:	Location:
January – February 2022	Emergency Planning Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) Reporting Workshops	Via Zoom – see schedule for dates, times, and to register
April 2022	AWR 148: Crisis Management for School-Based Incidents	Knox County EMA (was originally scheduled for October 19 th but postponed due to COVID)
TBD	HazMat classes	Working on a program for late spring. Let Ray know your interest level

Exercise Updates:

Recent Past Dates:	Title:	Location:
November 22, 2021	Town of Washington Table-Top Exercise – severe winter storm exercise	Washington Library

It may be a while before the County can start holding more in-person exercises due to COVID cases in the state increasing. We are still waiting on news about the availability of the at-home tests the federal government says will be available to the public. Omicron is trending as less severe than Delta but the transmission rate is far worse.

Peter asked Ray if the County was expecting to get some of the tests because the towns could use some. Ray doesn't think so because the County doesn't have a CLIA waiver to be able to use or distribute them. We can only order tests for EMS agencies with a CLIA waiver. Peter said that the Town of Appleton would like to be able to test town staff every few days. Ray offered to help him connect with Union EMS since they have a CLIA waiver and can do the testing for the town. Another option is trying to get some at Walgreens but they run out fairly quickly each time they get in stock.

St. George EMS is doing Moderna vaccination and booster clinics on January 7 and February 4 from 9 a.m. – Noon and 1 – 3 p.m. at the Town of St. George meeting room in Tenants Harbor. Call the town office at 372-6363 to schedule an appointment.

The Augusta Armory is also hosting “drop in” clinics during the month of January 2022. They are offering Pfizer, Moderna, and J&J vaccines for 1st, 2nd, Booster, pediatric, and adolescent doses. The location is 179 Western Ave in Augusta. Call 888-445-4111 for more info.

Pfizer booster shots were just approved for 12-15 year olds.

New Business:

1. Notice of LEPC Grant Award for July 2021 – June 2022 Finally Received

The County sent back the award notice signed to the SERC on 12/3/21 but we are still waiting on MEMA Director Pete Rogers to sign off on it. The award included \$7,235.61 for the LEPC operating budget stipend and \$6,794.98 for the training stipend. This is for July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022. We're already almost halfway through the award period with no signed contract. We have not received an explanation as to why.

2. Approve 2022 Meeting Schedule

- Eric Greiner voted to approve the 2022 meeting schedule. Peter Beckett seconded the motion. A vote was taken with all in favor.

3. Vote on LEPC Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice-Chair for 2022-2023

Currently, Mike Ames is serving as the vice chair, Ray Sisk is the treasurer, and Candice Richards is the secretary. Ray called for nominations.

- Peter Beckett nominated Mike Ames, Ray Sisk, and Candice Richards to their respective positions again for the 2022 – 2023 term. Drexell White seconded the nominations. A vote was taken with all in favor.

Miscellaneous:

1. Next Meeting

The next regular LEPC meeting will be February 1, 2022 at 10:30 a.m.

Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Candice Richards
LEPC Secretary

Remaining 2022 Meetings:

February 1, March 1, April 5, May 3, June 7, July 5, August 2, September 7, October 4, November 1, December 6